

APPENDIX N

FIRE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION PLAN



North Baja Pipeline, LLC
NORTH BAJA PIPELINE EXPANSION PROJECT

Appendix N
Fire Prevention and Suppression Plan

Prepared for:

United States Department of the Interior (USDI)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Arizona State Office
California State Office

May 2006

North Baja Pipeline Expansion Project

Fire Prevention and Suppression Plan

1. Introduction

The Fire Prevention and Suppression Plan (Fire Plan) identifies measures to be taken by North Baja Pipeline, LCC (North Baja) and its contractors (Contractor) to ensure that fire prevention and suppression measures are carried out in accordance with Federal, State, and local regulations. Measures identified in this Fire Plan apply to work within the project area defined as the right-of-way (ROW), access roads, all work and storage areas, whether temporary or permanent, and other areas used during construction and operation of the project. This Fire Plan was developed in accordance with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ROW Plans of Development and Grants, BLM Manual Handbook H-2901-1.

2. Purpose

The risk of fire danger during pipeline construction is related to smoking, refueling activities, operating vehicles and other equipment off roadways, welding activities, and the use of explosive materials and flammable liquids. During pipeline operation, risk of fire is primarily from vehicles and pipeline maintenance activities that require welding.

This Fire Plan establishes standards and practices that will minimize risk of fire danger and, in case of fire, provide for immediate suppression.

3. Responsibilities and Coordination

This Fire Plan will be implemented by North Baja and the Contractor on the North Baja Pipeline Expansion Project (Project). North Baja and the Contractor have the responsibility for providing all necessary fire-fighting equipment on the project site to their respective employees, and operating under the requirements of this Fire Plan. Prior to construction, North Baja will contact the appropriate fire control authorities to establish communications, obtain any required permits (such as burning or fire waiver permits prior to conducting any heavy equipment or burning activities), and/or fulfill other obligations as directed by fire control authorities. In addition to the above, North Baja will:

- Ensure that prevention, detection, pre-suppression, and suppression activities are in accordance with this Fire Plan and Federal, State, and county laws, ordinances, and regulations pertaining to fire;
- Accompany agency representatives on fire tool and equipment inspections and take corrective action upon notification of any fire protection requirements that are not in compliance; and
- Restrict operations on Federal lands during conditions of high fire danger as directed by the BLM as described in Section 4.1.11, Restricted Operations.

The fire prevention and suppression measures described in this Fire Plan will be in effect from pre-construction to the end of restoration. These restrictions may change by advance written notice by fire control authorities. However, required tools and equipment will be kept in serviceable condition and will be immediately available at all times.

4. Fire Prevention Measures

Methods and procedures that will be implemented prior to and during construction, operation, maintenance and termination of the project to minimize the risk of fire are described below.

a. Training

The Contractor will train all personnel about the measures to take in the event of a fire. The Contractor will also inform each construction crew member of fire dangers, locations of extinguishers and equipment, and individual responsibilities for fire prevention and suppression during regular safety briefings. Smoking and fire rules also will be discussed with the Contractor and all field personnel during the project's environmental training.

b. Smoking

Smoking is prohibited except in areas cleared and graded a minimum of 10 feet in diameter to mineral soil. All burning tobacco and matches will be extinguished before discarding. Smoking also is prohibited while operating equipment or vehicles, except in enclosed cabs or vehicles.

Smoking is never permitted in any area designated by DANGER or NO SMOKING signs. Smoking is not permitted in these areas regardless of any other factor. Smoking is not permitted on the pipeline ROW. Smoking is only permitted on access roads, within vehicles, and in approved smoking areas as described in the paragraph above.

c. Spark Arresters

During construction, operation, maintenance and termination of the ROW, all equipment operating with an internal combustion engine will be equipped with federally approved spark arresters. Spark arresters are not required on trucks, buses, and passenger vehicles (excluding motorcycles) that are equipped with an unaltered muffler or on diesel engines equipped with a turbocharger. Agency fire inspection officers will have full authority to inspect spark arresters on project equipment prior to its use on the project on Federal lands and periodically during the construction project.

d. Parking, Vehicle Operation, and Storage Areas

In no case will motorized equipment, including worker transportation vehicles, be driven or parked outside of the designated and approved work limits. Equipment parking areas, the ROW, staging areas, designated vehicle-parking areas, and small stationary engine sites, where permitted, will be cleared of all flammable material. Clearing will extend a minimum of 2 feet beyond the edge of the area to be occupied, but not beyond the boundaries of the approved ROW, extra workspace or ancillary site. Glass containers will not be used to store gasoline or other flammables.

e. Equipment

All motor vehicles and equipment will carry at least one long handled (48 inch minimum) round point shovel, a double-bit ax or Pulaski (3.5 pounds or larger) and one dry chemical fire extinguisher (with a UL rating of at least 5B or C). Individuals using power saws and grinders will have a shovel as described above, and an 8-ounce capacity fire extinguisher immediately available. All equipment will be kept in a serviceable condition and readily available.

The Contractor shall maintain a list, to be provided to local fire protection agencies, of all equipment which is either specifically designed for or capable of being adapted to fighting fires. The Contractor shall provide basic fire fighting equipment on-site during construction, including fire extinguishers, shovels, axes and other tools in sufficient number so that each employee on site can assist in the event of a fire-fighting operation. See Attachment A, Contractor's Specification for Fire Prevention and Control, for a complete list of equipment that the North Baja requires the Contractor to provide at various locations on the project site.

f. Road Closures

The Contractor will notify the appropriate fire suppression agency of the scheduled closures prior to the open cut crossing of a road. If required, the Contractor will construct a bypass prior to the open-cut installation of a road crossing, unless a convenient detour can be established on existing project approved roads or within project approved work limits. All bypasses will be clearly marked by the contractor. During road closures the Contractor will designate one person, who knows the bypass, to direct traffic. The Contractor will minimize, to the extent possible, the duration of road closures.

g. Refueling

Fuel trucks will have a large fire extinguisher charged with the appropriate chemical to control electrical and gas fires. The extinguisher will be a minimum size 35-pound capacity with a minimum 30 B.C. rating. Power saw refueling will be done in an area that has first been cleared of material that could catch fire.

h. Burning

No burning of slash, brush, stumps, trash, explosives storage boxes, or other project debris will be permitted on the project. No lunch or warming fires or barbecue grills will be allowed.

i. Flammable Liquids and Explosives

The handling and use of explosives shall be conducted in strict conformance with all local, State, and Federal regulations as detailed in North Baja's construction specification on Blasting.

j. Fire Guard

The Contractor will designate a Fire Guard on each construction crew prior to the start of construction activities each day. The Fire Guard must be physically able, vigilant, and suitably trained to detect fires and use required fire-fighting equipment, according to the requirements specified in this Fire Plan. An alternative or back-up Fire Guard will be designated to assume responsibility if the primary Guard is unavailable to perform his or her duties. The Contractor will provide, if required by North Baja, additional fire watch people with radio communication to the Fire Guard if the construction activity becomes too wide spread for one Fire Guard to

manage effectively.

k. Fire Guard Communications

The Fire Guard will be responsible for maintaining contact with fire control agencies and will be equipped with a radio or cellular telephone so immediate contact with local fire control agencies can be made. If cellular telephone coverage is not available, the Fire Guard will use the contractor's frequency to contact their radio base at the Contractor's yard. From there, yard personnel will telephone emergency dispatch.

l. Welding

One 5-gallon back-up pump will be required with each welding unit in addition to the standard fire equipment required in all vehicles. All equipment will be kept in a serviceable condition and readily available.

m. Restricted Operations

The Contractor will restrict or cease operations on Federal lands during periods of high fire danger at the direction of the BLM Fire Management Officer. Restrictions may vary from stopping certain operations at a given time or stopping all operations. North Baja may obtain approval to continue some or all operations if acceptable precautions are implemented. A written waiver must be issued to the Contractor.

The responsible BLM Fire Management Officer will notify North Baja the previous day if fire danger predictions call for restrictions the following day. If a sudden change in fire danger requires restrictions during the day, the BLM Fire Management Officer will notify North Baja immediately. North Baja will immediately notify the Contractor of restricted activities.

n. Monitoring

Construction and Environmental Inspectors for North Baja will inspect the job site and the Contractor's operations for compliance with all provisions of this Fire Plan. In addition, Federal State, and local fire control agencies may perform inspections in areas under their jurisdiction at their discretion.

o. Pipeline Operation and Maintenance

During pipeline operation, the risk of fire danger is minimal. The primary causes of fire on the ROW result from unauthorized entry by individuals utilizing the ROW for recreational purposes and from fires started outside the ROW. In the latter case, authorities can use the ROW as a potential firebreak. After the completion of pipeline construction, North Baja will block access in some locations to the ROW in coordination with the land managing agencies to minimize recreational use of the ROW. However, most of the ROW is in relatively flat terrain where there is no realistic way to block access. BLM's restricted routes of travel will help to limit recreational access. North Baja's maintenance and patrol personnel will be equipped with basic fire-fighting equipment including fire extinguishers and shovels as described in Section 4.1.5, Equipment. Maintenance crews will also carry emergency response/fire control contract phone numbers.

5. Fire Suppression

a. Suppression

The Contractor will take the following actions should a fire occur within the project area during construction:

- Take immediate action to suppress fires using all available manpower and equipment;
- Notify the Fire guard;
- Immediately notify the nearest fire suppression agency of the fire location, action taken, and status (see Section 6.2);
- Immediately notify North Baja of the fire location and action taken; and
- Relinquish the Fire Guard's direction of fire suppression activities to agency fire management officers upon their arrival.

Note: If required, personnel may leave the ROW boundaries ONLY to accomplish fire suppression. Heavy equipment is not to leave the ROW to suppress a fire unless directed by a BLM Representative on Federal lands or by the State or local authorities on private or State lands.

If a reported fire is controlled, the Fire guard will note the location and monitor the progress in extinguishing the fire. The Fire Guard, or his/her designee, will remain at the fire scene until it is fully extinguished. The extinguished fire will be monitored in accordance with procedures described in Section 5.2 below.

When reported by the BLM Fire Management Officer, the Contractor will make any equipment and personnel currently at the site temporarily available for fighting fires in the vicinity of the project. Payment of such services will be made at rates determined by the BLM Fire Management Officer.

b. Monitoring

The Contractor will mark the location and boundaries of all extinguished fires. The extinguished fire site will be monitored by the contractor for a minimum of 24 hours. Monitoring includes walking the fire site perimeter, as well as crossing through the site. The Fire Guard will maintain a log of all extinguished fire locations for future reference.

c. Notification

Construction crew members will report all fires, whether extinguished or controlled, to the Fire Guard. If the fire is uncontrolled, the Contractor's Fire Guard will call the nearest fire suppression agency (911) and the North Baja Lead Environmental Inspector. Information regarding the location of the fire, property ownership, and closest access roads should be reported to the 911 operator and North Baja.

If a reported fire is controlled, but not extinguished, the fire guard will call to notify the nearest police/fire authorities (see Section 6.2) using the non-emergency telephone line to alert them of the situation. The status of the fire will be monitored by the Fire Guard and when extinguished the nearest fire suppression agency will be notified.

North Baja will also immediately contact the nearest landowner(s). North Baja will maintain and provide the Contractor with an up-to-date list of landowner and land management agency contacts along the pipeline ROW.

d. Emergency Contacts

Construction	Phone Number	Office Location	BLM Contact
Arizona			
La Paz County	911 311 520-669-2281	Emergency Number Non-emergency Number County Sheriff's Office	
California			
Riverside County	911	Emergency Number County Sheriff's Office (Non-emergency)	
Imperial County	911	Emergency Number County Sheriff's Office (Non-emergency)	

ATTACHMENT A

North Baja Construction Specifications Regarding Fire Prevention and Control

[To be provided when construction specifications are complete.]